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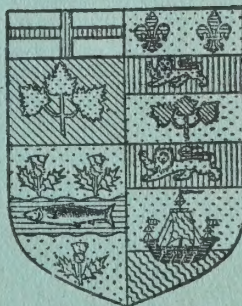
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Confederation (3)

Jubilee of Confederation

The
Official Celebration at Ottawa
July 2nd, 1917



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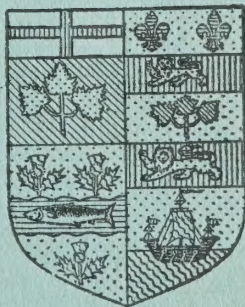
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Official Celebration at Ottawa
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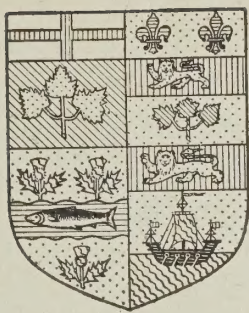
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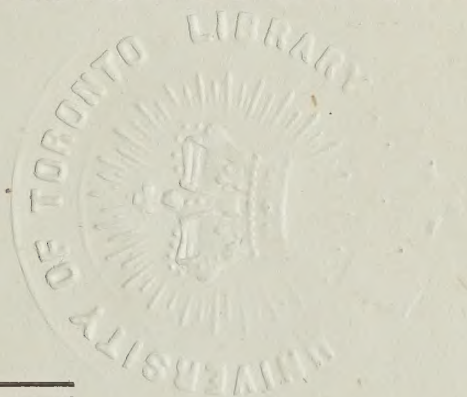
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HIS EXCELLENCY THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

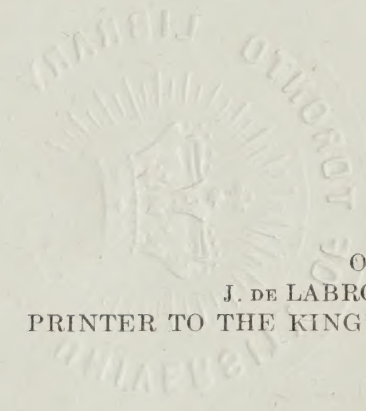


The
Jubilee of Confederation



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THE
OFFICIAL CELEBRATION AT OTTAWA
JULY 2nd, 1917



OTTAWA
J. DE LABROQUERIE TACHÉ
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
1917

FOREWORD.

It has been thought advisable to preserve a permanent record of the celebration of the Jubilee of the Confederation of Canada. To that end this small pamphlet has been prepared and a sufficient number issued to place in the keeping of public libraries, of colleges and institutions of learning, with the members of the Legislatures and Parliament of Canada, and with such other repositories as are deemed suitable, the simple story of what took place at the National Capital on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the birth of Confederation.

To those who, in Ottawa, participated in these proceedings there will ever remain a precious memory of faultless summer skies, of a stately new structure proudly resurgent from the ashes of the old home of Parliament, of flags and banners flying gaily in a translucent atmosphere, of bands and music and a great-voiced choir chanting our National Anthems, of the orators who vividly voiced a nation's pride and a people's thankfulness for the blessings and progress of the past and a wide vision of future great prosperity. And mingled with it all was a pervasive sense of a nation in arms, a world in contest for great ideals, and the wide and tearful sacrifice of human life on the altars of freedom and justice.

Everywhere in Canada the pulpits had, on the preceding Sabbath, delivered a nation-wide message of duty and responsibility, and inculcated the necessity for high national spirit and cheerful national service for Canada

and for the Empire for whose maintenance and civilization she, in common with the Overseas Dominions and dependencies, is waging common battle.

Elsewhere on this day in the capitals of the nine provinces of Canada fitting official recognition of our Jubilee was given with becoming dignity and spirit, whilst throughout the country every city, town, village, and district was instinct with feelings of national pride and hopefulness, to which the people gave voice in becoming and appropriate celebrations.

When another fifty years have run their course and an immeasurably greater Canada shall celebrate her centenary, it may be of interest to those then living to turn over the pages of this simple memorial record and give a thought to those who in July, 1917, amid the throes of a world war, recognized with grateful pride the imperishable work of the immortal Fathers of Confederation.

GEORGE E. FOSTER,

Chairman of Committee.

The Joint Committee of Parliament on the Celebration of Confederation.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER, Chairman.

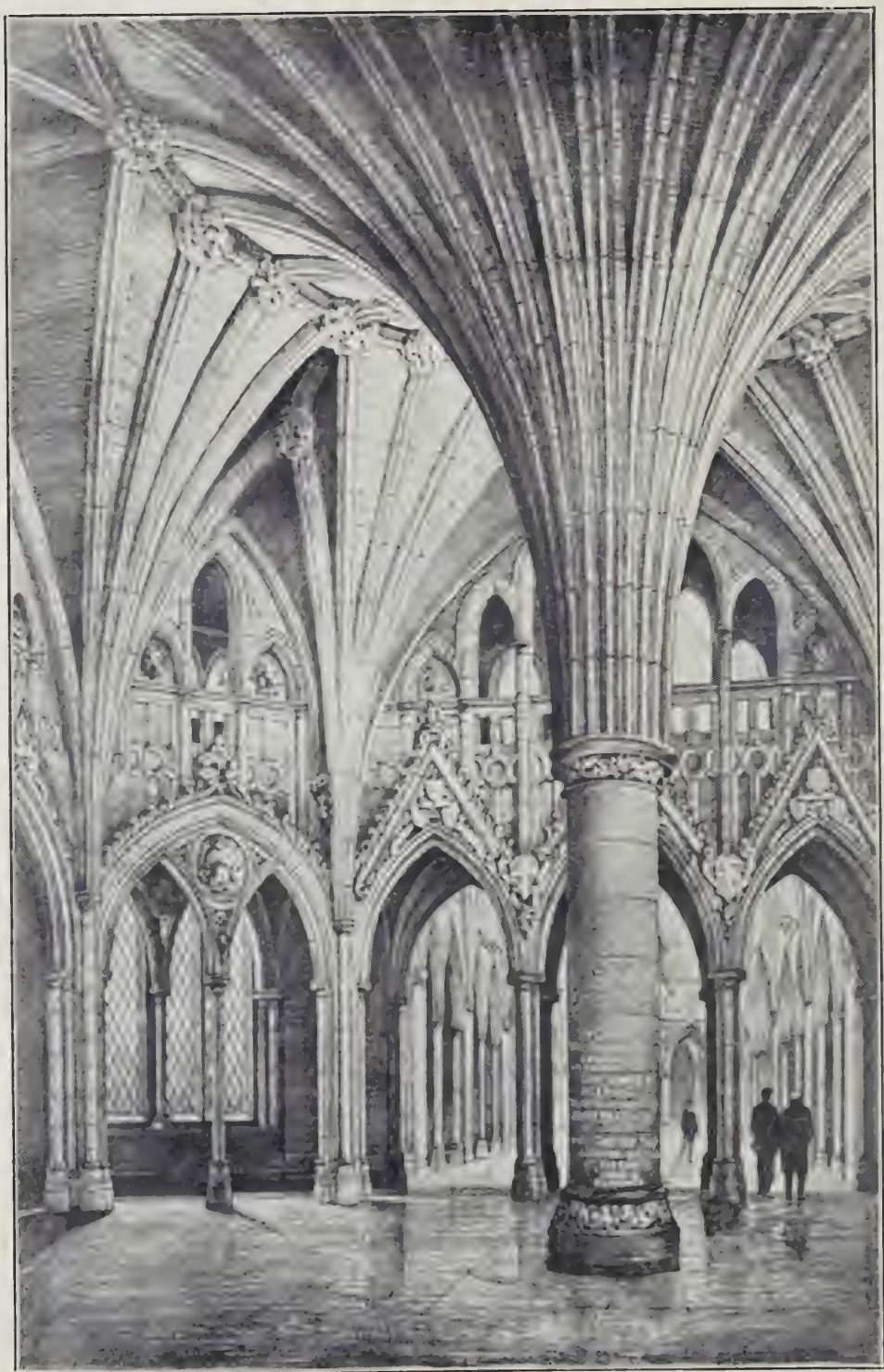
Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL,
Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND,
Hon. WILLIAM C. EDWARDS,
Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM,
Lieut.-General Sir SAM HUGHES,
CLARENCE JAMESON,
Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX,
EDWARD M. MACDONALD,
Hon. JOHN S. MCLENNAN,
Hon. CHARLES MURPHY,
Hon. ALBERT SÉVIGNY,
Hon. WILLIAM H. SHARPE,
Lieut.-Col. JAMES D. TAYLOR,
Hon. ROBERT WATSON.

The Joint Committee of Parliament on the Reconstruction of the Parliament Buildings.

Hon. ROBERT ROGERS, Minister of Public Works, Chairman.

Hon. PIERRE-EDOUARD BLONDIN,
Postmaster General.
Hon. JOHN D. HAZEN,
Minister of the Naval Service.
Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED, K.C.,
Calgary.
Hon. WILLIAM PUGSLEY,
St. John, N.B.
Hon. Dr. JOHN D. REID,
Minister of Customs.
Hon. ROBERT WATSON,
Portage la Prairie, Man.
JAMES B. HUNTER,
Deputy Minister of Public Works,
(Secretary).

JOHN PEARSON, Architect.
J. O. MARCHAND, Associate.
DAVID EWART, Consulting Dominion Architect.
P. LYALL & SONS CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD., Contractors.



CENTRAL ENTRANCE HALL, NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

THE JUBILEE OF CONFEDERATION.

Official Celebration at the Federal Capital.

1867 - - JULY - - 1917

ON THE FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFEDERATION
OF BRITISH COLONIES IN NORTH
AMERICA

AS

THE DOMINION OF CANADA
THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT AND
PEOPLE

DEDICATED THIS BUILDING
THEN IN PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION
AFTER DAMAGE BY FIRE

AS A MEMORIAL OF
THE DEEDS OF THEIR FOREFATHERS
AND OF THE VALOUR OF THOSE
CANADIANS

WHO IN THE GREAT WAR FOUGHT FOR
THE

LIBERTIES OF CANADA
OF THE EMPIRE
AND OF HUMANITY.

So reads the striking inscription on the tablet placed upon the central column supporting the roof of the great entrance hall of the new Parliament Building at Ottawa, and unveiled by His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., on the occasion of the official celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Dominion. The date was Monday, July 2nd, Dominion Day proper having fallen upon Sunday. Throughout the land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the churches had fittingly regarded the injunction

of the Royal Proclamation to observe Sunday as "a day of humble prayer and intercession to Almighty God on behalf of the cause undertaken by the British Commonwealth and the Allies, and for those who are offering their lives for it, and for a speedy and enduring peace."

The official gathering was held in front of the building, well under construction, which is to accommodate the Parliament of Canada, and which is to take the place of the stately pile destroyed by fire on February 3rd, 1916. Parliament being in session at this time, the demonstration was possibly the most representative that has ever been held in all the fifty years of Canada's nationhood.

Simplicity and impressiveness marked the celebration of Canada's Jubilee, and the dedication of the new Parliament Buildings was a befitting accompaniment of an historic occasion. The Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster, in his capacity as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, presided over the gathering. In addition to the members of the Government and of both Houses of Parliament, there were present the judiciary, the foreign consuls, the mayor and corporation of the city of Ottawa, representative clergy, and a vast concourse of citizens. The specially constructed dais and the buildings were festooned gaily with British, French, American, and other allied flags. Beautiful weather favoured the event, mid-summer sunshine being tempered with refreshing breezes.

His Excellency the Governor General arrived on the platform sharp at noon, and received a Royal Salute from the troops formed in a square on the lawn.

The programme then opened with the playing of the National Anthem by the massed bands of the Governor General's Foot Guards and the 43rd Regiment (Duke of Cornwall's Own Rifles). This was followed by the singing of "Rule Britannia" by a choir drawn from the city churches and conducted by Mr. J. Edgar Birch.

The Duke of Devonshire, upon the invitation of the chairman, then addressed the assemblage. His Excellency spoke as follows:—

The inscription which I am about to unveil is a worthy record of an occasion which will touch a sympathetic chord in the heart of every true Canadian, and which will equally appeal to all who believe in British institutions and British traditions.

In happier times the Jubilee of Federation would have been celebrated with a becoming manifestation of national rejoicing and pomp, but it is right and fitting that even in these days of stress and anxiety so important an event in our national history should be adequately recognized.

Confederation will stand for all time as the monument of the work accomplished by the devotion, the unselfishness, and the far-sighted vision of those men whom we are all proud to call the Fathers of Confederation.

To those men and their work we owe a debt which we can never repay, and it is for us, in our generation, to see that the glorious heritage to which we have succeeded shall be handed to those who come after us, unimpaired, and, as far as lies in our power, with added glory and lustre. The progress of Canada during the last fifty years is a story which fires the imagination and quickens the pulse; but it is not only from a Canadian point of view that we should regard the proceedings of to-day.

I doubt if there is any living individual who could measure the effect which the evolution of Canada has had upon the British Empire. That effect on the Empire is to be judged, not merely by the test of material considerations and a study of statistics, but by the growth and development of the character of her citizens.

Hardly, perhaps, did the Fathers of Confederation realize that their work would serve as the fundamental basis on which the great self-governing dominions of the Crown have been built up, and that the Empire, of which we are all members, is to a large extent the creation of their hands.

Still less could they have imagined the spectacle which we are witnessing to-day. I am confident, however, it would be a proud moment to them if they could know that Canada was taking so glorious a part in the most

terrible war that the world has ever seen, and that she was giving willingly and spontaneously her best and bravest to the cause of liberty and justice.

We are indeed keeping this anniversary under the shadow of a stupendous crisis, but we can look forward with confidence and certainty to the eventual result, provided we rise to our responsibilities and make the fullest use of our resources and opportunities. If we do so, as I hope, we can await the judgment of posterity in the sure and certain hope that fifty years hence this noble pile of buildings, which is now arising, will look down upon the capital of a Canada as grateful to us as we are to those who laid the foundations of the first Federal Parliament fifty years ago.

When His Excellency had concluded his address he pressed an electric button, which unveiled the memorial tablet over a hundred feet away. The choir then sang "O Canada," accompanied by the massed bands.

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister, who was the next speaker, said:—

Half a century measures the chief activities in the life of the individual; in the life of a nation it may count for little. In the history of a young country such as ours, with limitless resources and vast possibilities, the first fifty years of its development naturally constitute a most interesting and important period. Looking back over the half century which spans the existence of Canada as a united Dominion, we are thankful and proud that, although mistakes have been made, our progress has been wonderful and inspiring. In material development, achievement has surpassed all anticipation. Among those who contributed in greatest degree to laying the foundation and erecting thereon so splendid a structure of national life and purpose, none was greater, none had a finer purpose or a more glowing vision than the last survivor of that remarkable group of men who are known in our history as the Fathers of Confederation. Sir Charles Tupper passed away less than two years ago, and he lived to see all his splendid prophecies amply fulfilled and, indeed, surpassed. He lived also to see a united people animated by the spirit of those who first conceived and then achieved Confederation.



RIGHT HON. SIR R. L. BORDEN, G.C.M.G.

On this anniversary we are privileged to dedicate to the service of the State, a stately pile which is being reared upon the foundations of the building in which for nearly fifty years the High Court of the nation has annually assembled. Here were enacted many stirring scenes of the nation's history. Here met in strong, sometimes in fierce, debate the great protagonists in the early days of Confederation. Here were debated and determined the policies which guided and shaped the destinies of the young nation. There are present to-day those who have consecrated many years of their life to the service of the State within the walls which were devastated by fire more than a year ago: men of diverging ideals, of differing economic opinions, of conflicting aims; but all animated by the common purpose that Canada shall seek and follow the path that leads to strong nationhood and high destiny. The building which was destroyed was of splendid proportions and great architectural beauty. That it was designed and commenced six years before Confederation is in itself an evidence that the men of those days saw far into the future. But now upon the same foundation we rear a more stately structure. It symbolizes at once the splendid achievement of the past and the still more glorious hope of the future; it commemorates those who accomplished the great purpose of fifty years ago; it bids us remember those who have consecrated their lives to the resolve that that purpose shall be maintained. It is a happy conception to combine in its lofty portal the highest exemplification of architectural art as developed by the two pioneer races of this country. In its interior there is a more notable unity of design and of purpose than in the building which preceded it. Instead of a low and tortuous passage to the magnificent library which overlooks the cliff there will be a lofty spacious approach, with ample opportunity to commemorate on either side those who have best served the nation, whether in war or in peace. May this new building be emblematic of our country's future, foreshadowing a nobler national purpose, a higher conception of duty and of service, a truer consecration to those ideals of democracy and liberty upon which alone we can stand secure in the years to come. Within the walls that are rising before us will be debated and determined questions of high import profoundly affecting our future status and destiny. It was hardly within the dreams of the men of fifty years ago that Canada should

assume among the nations of the world the proud position which she occupies to-day. It may perhaps be beyond our imagination to realize the Canada that shall be during the lifetime of children now within the sound of our voices.

Faith, vision, courage, pointing to an overmastering purpose which for the time overbore all other considerations of whatsoever import; such was the inspiration of our fathers in shaping the destinies of the young nation. From them we hold in trust for those who are to succeed us a surpassing heritage. In all that concerns not only the national but the spiritual welfare of the State, that trust must be observed as a sacred obligation. To-day, with all the glories of summer surrounding us, with a bountiful harvest preparing, we, taking our part in the world's greatest struggle to preserve all that civilization and democracy have upbuilt in the past, are yet privileged to enjoy undisturbed within our borders the manifold blessings of peace. Let it be present ever in our hearts that nearly 150,000 Canadians are holding our battle line beyond the seas; let us not for a moment forget that if that battle line were once broken, the horrors of war might roll over a devastated country within our boundaries. It is the spirit of those who founded this Confederation that inspires the men who hold the lines in France and in Flanders, assuring to us the security and the blessings which happily are still ours. So these great men of bygone days are still here in the spirit. Their faith, their vision, their courage, and their devotion still live in the hearts of their children who slowly but surely are breaking down the stubborn resistance of tyranny and militarism, three thousand miles away. To us the theatre wherein that world tragedy is being enacted may seem infinitely remote; it is difficult to realize that the battle line where yesterday the thunder of Canadian guns heralded this anniversary is hardly more distant from this city than are the western confines of our country. The dauntless spirit of resolution which conceived and created this Dominion, which sustained it through trials and difficulties of no ordinary measure, and which raised its people to their present proud position among the nations is still strong and unflinching. On the fiftieth anniversary of her natal day Canada, in proud sorrow for those who have fallen, with solemn pride in what they have achieved, with firm confidence in her sons who hold humanity's battle line beyond the seas, sends



RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G.

to them a renewed assurance that their sacrifice shall not be in vain, and that their country will sustain them to the final issue of peace through victory.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who followed, said fifty years ago the Fathers of Confederation conceived and carried out the idea of joining together the scattered British colonies in the northern half of the American continent and uniting them in the principles of democratic government. It was a bold and new experiment. Many doubted its success, but events had more than justified expectations. It was a new chapter in colonial history, a new page in the British constitution. It was the nemesis of fate that the present occasion, which might be one of rejoicing, coincided with the saddest period in the history of Canada and the Empire, now under the shadow of war, into which had been thrown all her forces for the defence of her principles and ideals.

In times of peace, the day would be one of universal rejoicing, with flags and bunting on every street and jubilation prevalent in every corner of the land, with the exuberance of overflowing hearts. But the gathering was not one of rejoicing. There were too many homes in mourning, too many others where the people lived in fear of the coming of sad news from the front, telling of the death of a loved one on the battle line. The assemblage was in commemoration of the day, and for the purpose of testifying once more the country's gratification and gratitude and admiration to those great men who carried out Confederation, whom we delighted in naming "Fathers."

They were men of broad vision, not limited to the horizon of the original four colonies. They had cast their eyes far beyond, over all the continent, from the tempestuous shores of the Atlantic, over lake and mountain, to the broad Pacific. What was their dream in 1867—Confederation of all Canada—was an accomplished fact in 1917. New provinces had arisen out of the wilderness. To-day the Dominion embraced and comprised the whole of the half-continent. To these new territories Canada had invited the peoples of the nations of the world and had shared with them her lands. The only condition was that they swear allegiance to the King of England, the King of Canada, and that they should be true to Canada, true Canadians.

The men of 1867 had built far better than they imagined. Following their example, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand, once equally scattered colonies, were made nations. All these countries, in all latitudes, from the Northern Star to the Southern Cross, had been joined together in the intangible bonds of British unity. It was not a conglomeration of races held together by the iron rod of despotic rule, but, as in the happy words of General Smuts, "a commonwealth of free and open colonies." Looking back, the phenomenal progress and growth of law, order, prosperity, and freedom was due to the work of the men of 1867.

If more was to be said, the extraordinary development of British institutions never showed so conspicuously or so brilliantly as on the sad day we are passing through. When in 1914 Britain, seeing treaties dishonoured, had accepted war, from that moment all her colonies had been behind her, for it was realized that if treaties were to be broken with impunity, then civilization was at an end. The colonies did it spontaneously, willingly, voluntarily, in the full majesty of their legislative freedom. This could all be traced back to the men of 1867.

Looking back on the events of fifty years, it could be said that Canada had just cause for pride in the achievements of Confederation. Yet no one could say, Confederation had realized all that was hoped for it at the time. Much had been done; much more remained to be done. But nothing was to be feared if the Canadian people held sacred the principles of justice, tolerance, and broad human sympathy, and if they always maintained to the front those ideals, and used them as beacons to guide the nation in its vicissitudes. There would be storms—it was folly to hope otherwise—but they would be weathered if the people remained true to the faith, and if their courage was equal to all emergencies.

The march past, which was the last item on the programme, was a splendid military spectacle, one of the finest in the history of Ottawa. A body of returned soldiers, over 200 strong, under Major H. J. Woodside, took the lead, and was loudly cheered. Other units which took part were:—

Governor General's Foot Guards, 300 strong, under Lt.-Col. J. W. Woods.

The 43rd Regiment, D.C.O.R., 300 strong, under the command of Lt.-Col. R. J. Birdwhistle.

Signallers and Engineers, 300 strong, under Major Kinburn and Major Powers.

Railway Construction and Forestry Drafts, 100 strong, under Major Tidy.

Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, 100 strong under the command of Lt.-Col. R. M. Courtney.

Reinforcement draft of the Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Members of the City Police Department, under Deputy Chief Gilhooly.

Detachment of the Ottawa Fire Brigade, under Chief Graham.

Detachment of Girl Guides.

The following messages of congratulation were received by His Excellency the Governor General and the Prime Minister:—

From the Right Hon. David Lloyd-George, Prime Minister of Great Britain and Ireland.

Fifty years ago the statesmen of all provinces of Canada gathered in convention in Quebec to work out the basis of a Federal Union. From that act of statesmanship the Dominion of Canada was born. Confederation has done much for Canada. It has enabled the Canadian people to attain to internal unity and self-government, and to achieve the beneficent development of the resources of their country.

It has done not less for the Empire. It has made Canada the pioneer of that autonomous nationhood which is the unique characteristic of our Commonwealth of Nations, and it has had its logical outcome in the imperishable record which the army of Canada has made on the battlefields of Flanders in the cause of human freedom. The history of the past fifty years is, indeed, a certain proof of the part which Canada is destined to play, in concert with her sister nations, in promoting the peace and unity of the world after victory has been won.

From the Right Hon. Walter Long, Colonial Secretary.

Please convey to your Government and the people of Canada my heartfelt congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary of the Dominion. The progress made by Canada since federation is striking evidence of the wisdom and foresight of the statesmen who brought the Dominion into being, and justifies the most sanguine hopes for its future prosperity and greatness.

From the Right Hon. Sir Edward P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland.

On the commemoration of this, the fiftieth anniversary of the confederation of the British North American provinces, I desire to tender to the Canadian Parliament and the Canadian people, the good wishes and hearty congratulations of the people of Newfoundland on the splendid results achieved in your fifty years' partnership. The story of Canada's progress since 1867 to this, her golden jubilee year, reads like a romance, and whether measured by growth in population, agriculture, fisheries, mining, forestry, manufactures and trade generally, is alike phenomenal. Canada's greatest growth however, her best asset, is her people who have given those splendid heroes who have battled and are still battling in the great war for liberty and civilization in which the British Empire is engaged; heroes who have added another chapter to the lustre and renown of British arms, and equalled the standards set by the most famous deeds in history.

From the Earl of Liverpool, Governor General of New Zealand.

I desire to associate myself with the Government and people of New Zealand in tendering, through Your Grace, our most sincere and hearty congratulations to the Government and people of Canada on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada.

To myself personally it is an event of more than usual interest, inasmuch as Lady Liverpool's grandfather was the first Governor General.

From the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Government and people of Australia extend hearty congratulations to their kinsmen in Canada on this their

Fiftieth Anniversary. We rejoice that after fifty years of unexampled progress and prosperity, during which Canada has become a great nation, its people have taken up arms in defence of that freedom to which they owe their greatness. They have shown by their glorious achievements on the field of battle that they deem their country worthy.

From His Excellency Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.

At the time when the ties between the Canadian people and my countrymen are made even stronger by association in the common cause of human freedom, I offer cordial congratulations on this half-century anniversary of the founding of the Dominion of Canada.

From the Marquess of Lansdowne, ex-Governor General.

My thoughts will be with you on the great anniversary which you are about to celebrate. Canada has taken a glorious part in our Imperial effort, and I am more than ever proud to claim a place among those who have held office in the Dominion.

From the Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, ex-Governor General of Canada.

Canada a nation! The wise foresight of the Fathers of Confederation has been manifested in the steady growth and development of the principles and ideals which lay at the root of that great conception. Where the Fathers planted, others have watered; and now the germs have fructified. Canada a nation. Well do I remember the first time, exactly twenty years ago, seeing those words inscribed on a great scroll attached to a public building in Canada. And now the idea is recognized and fixed; and surely it has helped and will further help Canada—no longer a colony in the old sense of the word, but a member of the Great Sisterhood of Nations forming the true British Commonwealth—to do her part valiantly in the tremendous fight for freedom.

From Earl Grey, ex-Governor General of Canada.

Congratulations to the people of Canada on the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Confederation. Fifty years ago Canada was a disconnected group of thin rural communities, with a total population of less than half that of present London. The achievements of the Fathers of Confederation have won for Canada the admiration of the world. The ungrudging sacrifices, instantly resolved on by Canada in this supreme crisis of the world's history, for the preservation of the world's freedom and for the maintenance and enforcement of international law, have given to her the moral leadership of the western hemisphere. Long may she keep the position which she has won by her prompt action and the valour of her people. The magnificent readiness of over 400,000 volunteers to offer their lives, in order that the world's freedom might be preserved, justifies the belief that the spirit of these men will guide the destiny of the Dominion during the coming generations, just as that of the United Empire Loyalists has directed and moulded the character of Canada in the past. Personally, I realize that as long as she is true to herself nothing can prevent her from becoming, in the course of time, the controlling factor of the British Empire and, perhaps, of the entire English-speaking world. That she may prove worthy of her high destiny and continue to be the champion of unselfish aims for the benefit of humanity is my daily prayer.

From His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

As late Governor General I would like to express my warmest congratulations to the Dominion on its Fiftieth Anniversary. I rejoice at the great prosperity and advancement that has attended it through these years, and I look forward to still greater prosperity with the completion of its hundredth anniversary. The part its sons have taken in this great war, with all their acts of heroism and self-sacrifice, has brought undying fame to the name of Canada, and has cemented still closer those ties of attachment which have bound it to the Mother Country. I send my warmest feelings of affection and friendship to all Canadians, amongst whom I have spent the last five happy years of my life.

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